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REPLY

To the pretended

ANSWER,

To the Truest

ACCOUNT

OF

Mr. Fuller's

DISCOVERY, &c

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REPLY

To the Pretended

ANSWER,

To the Truest

ACCOUNT

OF

Mr. Fuller's
DISCOVERY.

Wherein

All that Authors Objections are briefly
answered, and with all the Validity of
all the other Writings, written lately on
that Subject, is considered, and shewn
not to be Convincing; and to be with-
out Authority.

In Vindication of the Person of Quality.

LONDON: Printed in the Year 1697.

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REPLY

TO THE

Pretended Answer,

To the Truest

ACCOUNT

OF

Mr. *FULLER*'s Discovery.

WHen I Writ my late short Discourse upon Mr. *Fuller*'s Narrative, undertaking a Discovery of the True Mother of the pretended Prince of *Wales*, I imparted to the World the Sense many Persons of Honour and Judgment, and, in all probability, of more

stedfast Affection to the Government, than that Narrator, or any of the little Writers that take his Part, and have scribed so much of late without Authority of a Subject; which Authority, as I have said, has not thought it worth the while to trouble it self about the being scandaliz'd by a Man condemn'd by Publick Vote of a *House of Commons*, as is *William Fuller*, in the Vote bearing date 24 die Februarii, 1691. Which Vote is as followeth:

Resolved, Nemine Contradicente, That this House doth declare, That William Fuller is a Notorious Impostor, a Cheat, and a False Accuser, having Scandaliz'd Their Majesties and Their Government, Abused this House, and Falsly Accused several Persons of Honour and Quality: And that an Humble Address be Presented to His Majesty (by such Members of this House as are of His Majesty's most Honourable Privy-Council) to Command His Attorney-General to Prosecute the said William Fuller accordingly.

I say,

(3)
I say, for such a Person to dare to pre-
tend to New Discoveries, till he got clear
of that Publick Brand of Infamy, that
ought to be enough to incapacitate him
for any Credibility, even in the smallest
Matters ; which being admitted, might
expose his Majesty to the hazard of being
deprived of his best and most useful and
qualified Servants and Subjects, at a time,
when he most needed them, by false Ac-
cusations, and Sham-Associations, suggest-
ed against them by profligate Wretches
of Mr. Fuller's stamp. And I should have
appear'd no more in Print upon any thing
of that nature, had not another Author
taken up the Cudgels for Mr. Fuller, and
misrepresented my Design, and made some
impertinent Exceptions to several of my
Assertions : To as many of which as it
shall be material for me, I shall here an-
swer, for the better satisfaction of the
Candid Spirits of what Party soever, lea-
ving the rest, as of no more concern to
me, than a Question started in *Eutopia*.

First then, As to what that Author pretends, *Pag.* 15. That the whole Design of my Pamphlet, as he calls it, is to fix a Note of Injustice upon the Present Government, for having Charged such things upon the late King, as he was never guilty of, and particularly in relation to the Counterfeit-Prince, is a very malicious, as well as groundless Insinuation: For I am too well convinced, that the Government never charged that Contrivance about the Prince upon him; tho' indeed there were abundance of judicious Persons, that thought he might be imposed upon in that Affair by the *Popish* Party, whom he too implicitly believed and followed in all things.

In the next place, I find by the whole Sequel of our Author's Discourse, that he supposes my design was to undertake to prove, That the pretended Prince of *Wales* was legitimate; which is a very great Mistake: For I, and a great many more Persons no more *Popishly* inclined, but better affected to the Government perhaps
than

than himself, may be of Opinion that rather on the contrary he was not so, and there might be some Imposture in the Case, and yet, not believe it was carried on in the way *Fuller* Suggests, and be loath to take what he says, upon the trust of his own Credibility; which till better cleared, will be Scandalous, even to the greatest of Truths, if they should chance to be Asserted by him, unless better backt: All that I undertook to prove in that Paper, was only, that the present Government had not meddled with that Question, as thinking it not material, and much less Necessary, but proceeded to settle the Succession of the Crown without it. That consequently Mr. *Fuller* and the rest, who have since started it afresh, could not serve the Government in it, but must have some meaner design of private lucre and popular applause, that what *Fuller* advances concerning it in his late pretended Discoveries, did not make the Imposture a whit the more credible to any that believed it not before, but rather the

less; and lastly, that *Fullers* whole story of Mrs. Grey, especially in what relates to her Death is very improbable, and that what he says, ought not to weigh down the more Authentick Testimonies of so many Persons, most of them of Quality that were entred upon publick Record to the contrary, in the late Kings time: All which stands firm to any thing our Author has said against it, as we shall prove anon to any Impartial Readers, for whom only and none else, we intend this short *Repartee*: And first, Whereas he Objects against my Assertion, *That it was never yet thought a Question worthy to be examined by Publick Authority, whether the pretended Prince of Wales were Legitimate or Suppositious*, he answers; that tis untrue, for that the late King thought it worthy to be proved by all the Depositions he could procure, and that the Prince of *Orange* in his Declaration desired the examination of it might be referr'd to a free Parliament, to which the late King never durst submit that Matter: I reply 'tis true, there

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the late King endeavour'd to prove him a true Child by all the Proofs he could, after he found it Objected against by the Prince of *Orange*, But that he would not submit the matter to the Decision of a Parliament is no strange thing, since he gave Symptoms enough to perswade us, he really thought the Major part of his People possess'd with undelible Prejudices against him, and that his Person, and much less his Queen, Child and Witnesses could be in no safety with them : But my meaning was as the Author rightly supposes, *Pag 27*, that neither the present King nor the Convention, nor any Parliament since the Revolution have thought the matter worth their Examination, nor that they thought the matter so palpable as to need no further Enquiry, as our Author suggests, but as I humbly conceive, because it was not of any Consequence or necessity for the settlement or security of the Government to enquire into it, as things were then ordered by the late King; for had King *James* staid and kept the

Throne, and submitted that Question to their Decision, they would have been obliged to enter into a Scrutiny of it, before they could reasonably have settled the Succession of the Crown, tho' 'tis probable, tho' the pretended Prince should have been proved Legitimate, they would have barr'd him from the Right of Succession, unless King *James* would have put him into the Hands of Protestant Trustees to be Educated, which the late King being not Resolved to consent to, it might together with the Reasons above mentioned induce him to send away the Mother, Child, &c. first, and afterwards to absent himself; upon which having no longer occasion to enter into any discussion of the birth of that Child, they fell upon a shorter and securer way of Settlement, by declaring the Throne vacant, and Entailing the Crown upon the next Protestant Heirs, to the Exclusion of all Popish Pretenders, whether Legitimate or not; and ever since that, there has been a profound silence among our Governours
about

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about the Prince of *Wales*, whom however, they never would declare to be a Suppositious Prince, tho' a parcel of Diminutive Scriblers have ventured so to do, without any Authority at all. How can they pretend then, or intend to serve the Government in such a nice Point as this, which whether true or false, is of no consequence to it? They may indeed say, that tho' now it be of no Consequence to the Government, whether that Child be a true or false Prince, yet it is of Consequence for them and the Nation, if there were an Imposture in that matter, to know and be informed fully of it, that they may the better beware of *Romish* Artifices hereafter. But we reply, 'tis not fit any private inconsiderable Persons, should pretend to declare themselves in a thing in which the Government it self is silent, and for such Men particularly as are a Scandal to Truth and to the Nation, our Governours are the best Judges of the Time and Manner of doing such things, and when they are minded to declare them-

themselves in the matter, no doubt but
that they will make choice of more Au-
thentick Evidences than that of Mr. *Ful-*
ler and his Crew, who as I am confident
they are not now Employed, so will ne-
ver be Encouraged by them. All as Mr.
Fuller has advanced in his two Books, a-
mounts to no more then Circumstances and
strong Presumptions, fortified by little else
but his own single Credit, which yet if
once publickly cleared from the Censure
of Parliament, under which it has now suf-
fered about Five Years, we should have
more respect for, tho' there's little hopes
his Depositions will ever be taken notice
of more in any Court of Justice; his Te-
stimony having not (that we can hear af-
ter all his endeavours for it,) been yet
admitted in any Discoveries made of the
late Barbarous Plot. But I proceed now
to reply in short, to his main Objections
to the Depositions: But first, I shall desire
the Reader to take notice once more, that
I pretend not to prove the Prince in Que-
stion to be Legitimate, but acknowledge
there

there were Irregularities in King *James* and his Queens Conduct in that Affair, that gave great cause of Suspicion to the next Heirs of foul play, and may well excuse them, even if the cause of Religion did not exclude that pretended Prince from being bound to acknowledge him, because the Proof lies upon his pretended Parents to make out, and not upon the next Heirs or the People to make good the Negative of it, as our undertakers attempt; and therefore we are obliged to answer every Book our Author sends us to, but all that we pretend to is, That all the Pamphlets yet out about that Subject, prove no more than some Reasonable Cause for a strong Suspicion of Imposture, since none of them have yet been able to induce Authority to declare it self positive in the Point, till when we think it audaciousness in any to decide it, and are fully perswaded that when ever a Peace shall happen to be concluded between the two Crowns of *England* and *France*; which will be now or
some

some other time, whoever lives to see it, will see all these fine *Chimera's* vanish into Smoak; and that let Affairs go how they will, the Government will never have any real esteem for, nor long wink at such kind of Cynicks, that if the least Reverse of Fortune should happen, would be sure to be barking at them who were last at the Helm, when they should be no more able to awe them. But to come closer to the Adversaries Objections, That the late Queen was impotent, as well as the King can never be supposed by any in their Senses, and that know she had had several Children, and some not very long before, tho' it were doubted she could have any sound and Healthy, and tho' a certain Faction as much Republicans under this Government as ever, they would needs have deemed it a real Child she had, as they were formerly, as appears by the Canonical writings of *Cave*, if Sir *Roger l' Estrange's* be *Aprocryphal* with our Author, and consequently might be the true Mother of the Child, and was as capable
of

of having the contrivance of the King of *Castile* practised upon her as another Woman, and therefore may be hardly thought willing another should supply her place; neither could her Case be like that of Queen *Mary Tudor* who was much older, and never had had any Child; but he tells us very roundly in general of the Depositions, that all of them do not out weigh Mr. *Fullers* single Circumstantial Testimony, as being none of them Eye-Witnesses of the Birth; to which I answer, that if he do not stand upon the Nicety of a Word, he may find three or four Depositions there that will prove the Deponents to have been Equivalent to Eye-Witnesses, if they were not exactly so according to the letter of the very birth; for the first he finds fault withal, viz. that of the Countess of *Sunderland* tells us, that by the Queens Command she laid her Hand upon her Majesties Belly to feel how high the Child lay, by which she found she had a real Child within her, felt she had a real Pain, which by staying in the Room till she was De-

livered, she found must needs be the same she had felt within her, as certainly as if she had seen it taken out of her Body. The Third Deposition likewise affirms, that Dame *Isabella Wentworth* felt the Child in the Queens Belly when she was in Bed, was present when it was born, and staid till she heard it cry. Lastly, to mention no more, Mrs. *Elizabeth Pearse* Laundress to the Queen Deposits besides other things, that she took away all the foul Linnen as they came from the Queen, and found by them that the Queen was in the same condition all other Women used to be in their Child-bed.

All which seems to me sufficiently to prove, that if the pretended Prince was not the Queens own Child, she had at least a Child at the same time, which was born and given to Mrs. *Labadie* for such, unless he were changed afterwards. I come now to the business of Mrs. *Grey*, and must say I cannot but believe it to be a Fiction, because notwithstanding what our Author says, it is highly improbable so great a Man as the *French* King

King, tho' he may not Boggle at the Employing Emissaries to Assassinate Princes or take off great Generals that stand in the way of his ambitious Designs, yet would stoop so low as to be concerned in the Blood of a silly Woman, he had no occasion to spill, or so much as to examine her, since finding she had escap'd once from them, they might have easily shut her up in the *Oublies* or 20 other places in *France*, where she could never have escaped to hurt them, and where if *Coleman* and *Plunket* had been instead of being in *England*, they never had needed, nor never would have hanged them for fear of telling any Tales: And then if they had been minded to have used extremity to her, about such a business of such concern where Secrecy was so necessary, she would have been carried immediately to the private Prison where she was to die, her examinations taken only there, the two Kings and Queen contenting themselves only with having them reported, without having her brought backwards and forwards, to give People occasi-

on to gaze and to talk, and reflect, no^p Man that knows the *French Court* will believe such a thing probable in the least: In fine, I am pretty well assured that some of the Honourable Deponents, and which are no Papists, neither are convinced yet by any of the yet Printed arguments, that the late Queen was not with Child, and really Delivered when said to be so, tho' they pretend not to know now whether this be the same Child or no, nor are careful about it, since now it little concerns them or the Publick one way or other, and they and many more will suspend their belief of the new Stories now crumpt up about it, till they have the stamp of Authority, and be declared to be the Publick sense of the Government; which not supposing to be likely to happen till the *Greek Calends*, I shall take my leave of my Authors, advising them to manage well the Sale of their Roman-tick wares before a general Peace declare them Contraband Goods.

F I N I S.

